



COMSECNDFLT Public Affairs
1751 Morris St., Bldg D-29, Norfolk, VA 23511
Voice: 757-443-9850 (X47127)/Fax: 757-443-9805
POC: Cmdr. Conrad Chun
<http://www.secondfleet.navy.mil/>



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SWIFT Gold Crew Receives Two Humanitarian Service Medals *Crew recognized for Hurricane and Tsunami relief efforts*

By JO3 Timothy Humphrey
USS Whidbey Island

Norfolk, Va. – The Gold Crew of the High Speed Vessel Swift (HSV 2), was awarded two Humanitarian Service Medals February 28 in a ceremony held onboard USS Whidbey Island (LSD 41) at Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek.

The Gold Crew is the only crew in the Navy that participated in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief for the Unified Assistance for both Tsunami Relief and Hurricane Katrina efforts.

Swift provided food, water, supplies and relief materials to organizations in Asia and New Orleans.

“Swift’s efforts were critical in the early days of both disaster efforts,” said Commander Rob Morrison, Commanding Officer, Swift Gold Crew. “When roads and rail were not reliable to support the task force, Swift’s shallow draft, maneuverability and vehicle ramp made her the ideal platform to deliver critical supplies.”

The Swift, a high-speed catamaran, was built in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, Swift is a multi-mission capable platform able to operate in excess of forty knots. Swift is designed to be reconfigurable for various missions including command and control, riverine, flight operations, providing support for sea-basing, expeditionary forces, and undersea warfare. Swift can also deliver vehicles, stores, personnel and disaster materials to damaged piers.



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The Humanitarian Service Medal, established January 1977, is awarded to members of the Armed Forces who distinguish themselves by meritorious direct participation of humanitarian operations.

“New Orleans is celebrating Mardis Gras,” remarked Morrison. “The hard work the crew did to bring supplies into the city is directly reflected by the fact New Orleans was able to celebrate today.”

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